

Bedford, 13692C – May 18, 2016 Public Informational Meeting

The evaluation of environmental and cultural resources impacts within the project limits is on-going. The resources and impacts of the preferred option chosen will be documented in an Environmental Study, which will be made available for public review.

For Cultural Resources, the project will need to comply with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. This act requires the Department to identify and assess the project's impacts to cultural resources, which are building, historic districts, and structures, as well as archaeological sites, that are generally greater than 50 years old.

These regulations offer owners of historic properties directly affected by the project or agencies that possess a direct interest in the historical resources an opportunity to become more involved in an advisory role through meetings and commentary. They may become what are known as Consulting Parties to the Section 106 process.

The lead Federal Agency for this project is the Federal Highway Administration. Although the role of a consulting party is advisory in nature, FHWA must consider a consulting party's input carefully before making a final decision on how the project will affect historic properties.

Consultation recognizes the importance of local involvement in the decision making process. If you wish to become a consulting party, please contact me after the meeting.

Additionally, the Federal Highway Administration's Section 4(f) of the DOT Act regulations require the evaluation of impacts to historic and recreational properties to determine whether alternatives which avoid or minimize impacts to these properties are feasible or prudent.

An historical survey will be conducted during the development of this project. The Department will continue to coordinate with the NH Department of Historical Resources (NHDHR) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regarding historic properties or historic districts determined to be located within the project limits.

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